(d) There is no bar on any private manufacturer to produce the items from the product range of Telecom. Factories. Generally the requirement in excess of the production capacity of Telecom. Factories is procured from outside sources.

(e) The major products of Telecom Factories compete favourably with those of private suppliers in respect of cost as well as quality.

Changes in the Telecom policy

908. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring azout amendments in the National Telecom Policy;

(b) if so, whether the telecom offences are increasing rapidly without any proper check; and

(c) if so, to what extent the changes in the telecom policy are going to check telecom offences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) There has been rapid increase in the complaints of diversion of telephones by unscruplous persons in connviance with the telecom officials for illegal STD|ISD purposes. As a preventive measure surprise inspections by Vigilance Staff of the Department have been strengthened at sensitive points in the network. 4 special Cell of CBI will be set up shortly at the 4 metropolitan cities to coordinate with the Department officials in effectively checking the malpractice. It is proposed to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 to effectively deal with the persons involved in diversion of telephones or those taking advantage of such diversion of those abetting or inducing such diversion. Deterrent penalties are being proposed against such persons. The Bill for this purpose has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 10.8.93. It is expected that the proposed legislation will enable the Department to effectively deal with and contain the malpractice of diversion of telephones for illegal purposes.

Euroissue of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited

909. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:
SHRI O. P. KOHLI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are dithering on the decision to relaunch the $1 billion Euroissue of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) and the loss per day to the VSNL is estimated to bs Rs. 1 crore;

(b if so, what is Government's present thinking to go to the international market again at the earliest; and

(c) how far the non-mobilisation of funds is impairing the programmes of the VSNL and also the growth of telecommunication sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. The report of estimated loss of Rs. 1 crore per day is without any basis.

(b) No final decision has yet been taken regarding relaunch of the deferred VSNL issue.

(c) Deferment has not impaired the programmes of VSNL and the telecommunication sector.

टेलेक्स मशीनों पर देवनागरी का प्रयोग

910. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या दूरसंचार विभाग में टेलेक्स मशीनों पर देवनागरी के प्रयोग की सुविधा उपलब्ध है;